

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 February 2017

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| Work Programme 2016/17 |
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Report of Head of Law and Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To give an update on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2016-2017

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To review the draft work programme (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 To approve the draft scoping document relating to the Youth Engagement 2017 Scrutiny Review (Appendix 2)
- 1.3 To consider the draft scoping document relating to the Mobile Signal Scrutiny Review (Appendix 3)
- 1.4 To identify any items from the Executive Work Programme to form part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2016/17.
- 1.5 To identify any other possible future topics for scrutiny and consider whether these topics should have scoping documents produced, based on the considerations of risk and what value scrutiny can add through considering the issue.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Committee are required to review the Work Plan at each meeting and make any amendments required as a result of developments since the last meeting.

3.0 Report Details

Update on current Scrutiny review

Youth Engagement Review

- 3.1 The Youth Engagement Review was established in October 2014, and a scoping document was signed off by the Committee. Councillors Bryn Williams and Neil Prestidge were appointed to the working group, along with Councillor Dan Sames. Councillor Sames left the Committee in 2015.
- 3.2 At the last meeting of the Committee in November 2016, it was agreed that the membership of the working group be amended to Councillors Anderson, McHugh, Prestidge, Slaymaker and Rhodes from the Committee, and also Councillor Sean Woodcock as a co-opted member.
- 3.3 The Working Group have met and drafted a scoping document. The Committee are asked to consider the scoping document (Appendix 2), and approve it so that work on the review can start.

A361 Traffic review

- 3.4 At the meeting of the Committee in May 2016, it was agreed that a working group be established to look at a potential review regarding the A361 through the district.
- 3.5 A scoping document was approved at the November 2016 meeting of the Committee.
- 3.6 The Working Group have met and started work on the review, allocating tasks amongst the group. A further verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Mobile phone signal review

- 3.7 Following concerns regarding the quality of mobile phone signal across the district, the Committee agreed to set up a working group comprising of Councillors Anderson, Brown, Lis, Prestidge and Williams.
- 3.8 The Working Group have met and drafted a scoping document. Since the meeting of the Working Group, it has come to light that the British Infrastructure Group has written a report 'Mobile Coverage: A good call for Britain?' and a Digital Economy Bill – Reforming the Electronic Communications Code is currently going through parliament to force Mobile Phone companies to comply with an agreement to spend £5bn on improving Mobile Coverage before the end of 2017.
<http://britishinfrastructuregroup.uk/reports-and-briefings/mobile-coverage/>
- 3.9 The Committee are asked to consider the scoping document (Appendix 3), and consider if work on the review should start or if the work should be postponed until the outcome of the work of the British Infrastructure Group is known.

Executive Work Programme

- 3.10 As part of the monthly work programme report, the Committee reviews the Executive Work Programme to consider whether there are any issues which they would wish to look at in more detail in advance of the Executive discussion and decision. To facilitate a thorough consideration of the topic the Committee will need

to identify the Executive Work Programme items at an early stage of the decision making process.

- 3.11 The Executive Work Programme is updated and published monthly; an electronic copy is available on the council's website and all councillors are sent a prompt containing the website link. Members of the Committee are encouraged to review the Executive Work Programme outside the committee meetings and to contact the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Democratic Services Officer if there is a topic that they wish to review.
- 3.12 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Executive Work Programme and consider whether to include them on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2016/17.
- 3.13 At the time of writing this report, the current version of the Executive Work Programme is March to June 2017 and can be found on the following page of the website: [Cherwell Forward Plan](#)

Future meetings Schedule

- 3.14 The meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2016-2017 Municipal Year are listed below:

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| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 2016/17 4 April, 6:45pm |
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4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations as set out in the report are believed to be in the best interests of the Council.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

Option 2: To amend the recommendations.

Option 3: Not to agree the recommendations.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific legal issue.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected.

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Each Scrutiny Review will identify the relevant Corporate Plan and Policy framework links.

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Work Programme for 2016-17 |
| 2 | Youth Engagement 2017 Scoping Document |
| 3 | Mobile Signal Scoping Document |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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